



Center News



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A Newsletter for Federal Child Care Centers

Spring 1999

The GSA nationwide network of child Care coordinators

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GSA's Tenth Annual Child Care Conference

Come one, Come All!!!

This year's tenth annual child care conference will be held July 7-9, 1999 in San Diego, California at the Marriott Hotel and Marina.

The conference will cover a broad array of topics presented by experts from around the country. Directors, Teachers, Management Companies, Board Members, Property Managers, Agency Representatives and Policy Makers will all find interesting and informative sessions to attend.

This year we will be introducing our new Cornerstone Award. This is a GSA award recognizing those GSA building managers and other agency staff whose efforts have supported the child care program in exceptional ways. The Wednesday evening reception will include the presentation of the Cornerstone Awards, and recognition of everyone who has worked in or on behalf of centers 10 or more years.

Caregiving staff and Directors can look forward to a number of great sessions on inclusive child care and hands on solutions to help create ideal work environments.

Facility managers in GSA and delegated facilities can learn the best practices for facility maintenance, hear about new initiatives in buying, living and selling green, and participate in a roundtable discussion.

Hope you can join us in sunny California. For more information call: Faye Wilkes on (202) 501-3464.

10th Annual Child Care Conference
A Decade of Caring
July 7-9, 1999
San Diego, CA



Getting On-Line

We have been talking about getting the centers "on-line" for some time, but now we are seeing it happen. GSA Administrator Dave Barram made a commitment to have all centers in GSA space connected to the Internet by Mother's Day. For some of our centers this truly was a great gift as Internet connection for your centers meant some nice new computer equipment as well.

This means we now have a new and more efficient way of communicating important safety tips, policy updates and program information, annual surveys etc. Each center will now be able to quickly send messages to their GSA Regional

Child Care Coordinator as well as communicate with the network of over 110 centers in GSA managed space.

Many Board members and parents are

also on-line and e-mail will offer the centers yet another way of communicating, making some parts of the job easier for everyone.

Have fun exploring this new tool and we look forward to hearing from you on-line.

P.S. Your center's e-mail address will be added to our web page.

Check out the web sites listed on page 2.

Northwest Arctic Region Honored

The Northwest Arctic Region was recently recognized by the Governor of Alaska at a rally to celebrate and recognize family-friendly organizations. The event was held at the State Capitol in Juneau. The Governor cited GSA along with the Forest Service and Coast Guard as the only commercial / business facilities in Juneau to provide child care at the work place.

The Gold Creek Child Development center cares for up to 60 children infants through pre-k.

Office of Personnel Management Holds Child

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Family-Friendly Workplace Advocacy Office hosted a summit May 12-14, 1999 on "Affordable, Quality Child Care. An Employer Issue". The summit covered a wide array of topics from Public /Private Partnerships to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES:

GSA, Child Care Operations Center of Expertise
<http://www.gsa.gov/pbs/centers/child/>

National Clearinghouse for the Military Child Development Program
<http://dticaw.dtic.mil/milchild/>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
<http://www.naeyc.org/default.htm>

The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care
<http://nrc.uchsc.edu>

National Child Care Information Center
<http://nccic.org/>



Pictured from left to right: Judge Woodlock, Justice Breyer, John Ferrell, President of the Dorchester YMCA, and Judge Tauro.

Who are These Men And Why are They Smiling?

The Harborview Children's Center in the new Boston Courthouse was recently dedicated. The center planning began under the dynamic leadership of Justice Stephen G. Breyer while he served on the Federal bench in Boston. Judge Douglas P. Woodlock continued the support of this center and is a strong proponent of child care centers for court employees.

Windy City Kids Child Development Center Opens in Chicago

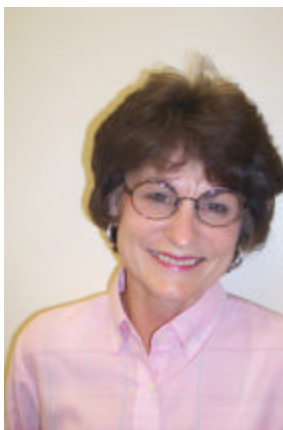
The Social Security Administration in collaboration with the Harold Washington Social Security Center Employee Association is pleased to announce the opening of the Windy City Kids Child Development Center. The center opened with its first children on April 12, 1999.

The center is housed in the SSA Harold Washington Great Lakes Program Center at 600 W. Madison Street, Chicago, IL. The program is managed by Easter Seals of Metropolitan Chicago. The center will care for approximately 72 full time children, infants through pre-school. Seventy children were already enrolled on opening day, and the infant room is filled.

The center's interior is rich with maple woodwork and furniture adding to the comfortable setting. The play yard has been turned into a park with the children's own board walk. On opening day, "We had one child who cried because he didn't want to stay, and another who cried at the end of the day because she didn't want to leave", said Christy Mallory, SSA coordinator on the project "I guess we'll call it even."



Getting to Know You



Recognizing Directors Working in Our Centers 10 or More Years.

Bonnie Millerv has been the Director of the Corporate Kids Child Care Center at the Richard Bolling Federal Building in Kansas City, MO, since September 1988.

Ms. Miller is never seen without a smile. She knows each and every child who has been in the center over the last 11 years. She is the center's greatest advocate and charms everyone. Agency heads and parents are encouraged to come read a book, dance with the children, or donate equipment. Bonnie is a remarkable person and truly represents the qualified staff we would like to have in every GSA child care center.



We are pleased to recognize Sunny Gutierrez as another 10 year Director. Sunny has been the Director of A Child's Place Child Development Center in Fort Worth, TX, since it opened in 1988. She is proud of her center and staff where five teachers have worked together for over 10 years, and the newcomer amongst them has nine years of service!

In addition, our list of Directors with 10 plus years of service includes: Ms. Theresa Woods, Director of the Government Center Child Care Center in Boston, MA, working there since 1986, and Ann Benfield, Director of DOT Child Care in Washington DC, since 1989.

Several Directors have more than 15 years in their centers even though the center has not been part of the GSA network that entire time, including Laurie Meltzer Klinovsky from the Greenwood Nursery School in Hyattsville, MD, and Cheryl Gibson Smith Director of the Downtown Child Development Center in Atlanta, GA.

In this time when so many centers across the country are plagued with high teacher turnover rates, it truly is noteworthy to see how many teachers we have in our network who have been in their centers 10 or more years. From across the country, we have over two dozen staff meeting the 10 year milestone.

Teachers and staff represent hundreds of years of service working with young children and their families. We believe we have the best and the brightest in the field working in the GSA network of child care centers.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission News from CPSC

Recommendations Revised to Prevent Infant Deaths from Soft Bedding.

To prevent deaths from soft bedding, the CPSC, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) are revising their recommendation for putting infants down to sleep. Soft bedding may be a major contributor to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The CPSC, AAP and NICHD recommend that infants under 12 months be put to sleep in a crib with no soft bedding of any kind under or on top of the baby.

For years CPSC has warned parents and caregivers to place infants to sleep on their back in a crib with a firm, tight-fitting mattress and never to place infants on top of soft, fluffy bedding because if the baby rolls over the bedding can become molded around the infant's face.

**U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission**
<http://www.cpsc.gov>

Revised Recommendations:

- Place baby on his/her back on a firm tight-fitting mattress in a crib that meets current safety standards.
- Remove pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, stuffed toys and other soft products from the crib. **(Does not include bumper pads, fitted securely to the crib.)**
- Consider using a sleeper as an alternative to blankets with no other covering.
- If using a blanket, put baby with its feet at the foot of the crib. Tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress, only as far as the baby's chest.
- Make sure your baby's head remains uncovered during sleep.
- Do not place baby on a waterbed, sofa, soft mattress, pillow or other soft surface.

NAEYC Accreditation - GSA Eligible Centers Nationwide: 69%

Congratulations to the following Centers on their recent Accreditations:

- * ***FAA Little Flyers, College Park, Georgia***
- * ***Uncle Sam's Academy for Tots, Kansas City, Kansas***
- * ***Treasure House Child Care Center, Covington, Kentucky***

Congratulations to the following Centers on their recent Reaccreditations:

- * ***Clever Kids Learning Center, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado***
- * ***Government Center Child Care Corp., JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, Massachusetts***
- * ***Government Center Child Care Corp., Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Bldg., Boston, Massachusetts***

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The "Federal Employees Child Care Act" creating regulations to govern child care in all federal facilities has been introduced in the Senate. (S.813)

Rep. Morella, R-Md., has introduced H.R. 206, "The Federal Employee Child Care Affordability Act". The bill permits agencies to use appropriated funds to make child care more affordable and accessible for low and middle grade employees.

We will be following these bills and keep you informed of their progress.



WE'RE CELEBRATING

During this year's conference we will be celebrating our tenth anniversary and recognizing those people who have worked in or on behalf of centers 10 or more years. We will be giving out 10 year merit pins at the conference. Your Regional Child Care Coordinator will distribute pins in the regions to those who have earned this distinction but could not attend the conference.

In addition, we are working on a display of our centers which have been open 10 or more years. If you have any special photographs of your center or any photos of some of your first graduates, please share them with your Regional Child Care Coordinator.

Lea Themelis, Dirksen Baby Room graduate – then and now..



GSA child Care
Operations
Center of expertise

[HTTP://WWW.GSA.
GOV/PBS/CENTERS/
CHILD/](http://www.gsa.gov/pbs/centers/child/)

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Contributions and Com-
ments on Center News are
welcome and encouraged.